

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL AREA PARKING
COMPLIANCE**

DATE: May 31, 2007

Approved

/s/

Date 05/31/07

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council approve the following amendments to the 2007-2008 Proposed Operating Budget to allow for the formation of a School Area Parking Compliance Team that will include four Parking and Traffic Control Officers (PTCOs) to increase parking compliance in school areas citywide, resulting in enhanced safety for school children, teachers and parents. This will require adding two new positions in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget, and redeploying two existing positions from parking facility patrol.

1. Increase the General Fund Personal Services Appropriation (0511) by \$315,000. This would include the addition of 2.0 new Parking and Traffic Compliance Officer (PTCO) positions and the transfer of 2.84 FTE (portions of three PTCOs and one Senior PTCO) from the Parking Fund to the General Fund;
2. Increase the General Fund parking citation revenue estimate by \$513,000 due to increased citation issuance primarily associated with enforcement activities in non-school areas;
3. Increase the General Fund Non-personal/Equipment Appropriation by \$132,000 to allow for the purchase of four clean-air vehicles for the PTCOs, two ticket-writers, and other miscellaneous equipment and supplies;
4. Increase the Citywide Citation Processing Appropriation by \$21,000;
5. Increase the Citywide Jail/Courthouse Fee Appropriation by \$45,000;
6. Decrease the Parking Fund (533) Personal Services Appropriation (0511) by \$209,314 to reflect the transfer of the 2.84 FTE to the General Fund;
7. Increase the Parking Fund (533) Ending Fund Balance by \$209,314.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Transportation and Police Department regularly receive concerns regarding vehicular speeding, illegal movements, and inappropriate parking during the drop-off and pick-up periods at elementary and middle schools. Similar concerns are also raised at the monthly meetings of the School Pedestrian Safety Committee (SPSC) attended by various school district

representatives. Recurring incidents, such as double parking, parking in red zones, and blocking driveways, impact traffic flow and negatively impact the safety of student pedestrians and bicyclists going to and from school.

To address these concerns, additional patrol by Parking and Traffic Control Officers (PTCO) is being supported by elementary and middle school Superintendents in San José. The PTCOs will encourage compliance with parking regulations and issue limited citations to individuals who do not voluntarily comply with posted parking restrictions.

In 2004-2005, four PTCO positions were added to provide patrol in parking garages to enhance safety and compliance with parking regulations. The new positions included funds previously allocated for contractual parking security as a way to test the use of PTCOs for both parking regulation enforcement, and parking garage safety patrol. Although the presence of the PTCOs has had some affect on thefts and vandalism in the garages, a recent Parking Garage Security Assessment by DOT and SJPd concluded that the security challenges that exist in the parking garages, especially late night on the weekends, require staff that can engage individuals involved in inappropriate or illegal activity, and stop the activity. For safety purposes, and to better match responsibilities with more typical classification duties, the PTCOs would be assigned to school safety area patrol and general parking patrol activities. The Parking Garage Security Assessment recommends that a sworn police officer detail, and private security staff resume those security activities in the parking garages. This necessitates removing 2.84 FTE PTCO positions funded in the Parking Fund for parking garage patrol. The Parking Garage Security Assessment and recommendations were presented to the Transportation and Environment Committee on May 29, 2007, and will be forwarded to City Council for review and approval on June 12, 2007.

ANALYSIS

There are approximately 200 elementary and middle schools in San Jose. As indicated above, traffic conditions at many of these schools impact the safety of student pedestrian and bicyclists in school zones. In 2006, there were 48 injury crashes involving school aged children. To enhance safety in school areas, the City provides many programs and services focusing on 3Es – Engineering, Education and Enforcement. While the engineering solutions make the city streets safer for drivers and pedestrians, the education programs are aimed at fostering safe driving habits and educating pedestrians and bicycle riders on how to share the road and enhance their personal safety. The enforcement program primarily involves SJPd enforcement of speeding and other moving violations, and to lesser extent, parking enforcement by DOT's Parking and Traffic Compliance Officers. This proposal expands the enforcement of safety related parking violations by the PTCOs and thereby improving safety around San Jose schools for pedestrians and bicycle riders.

Initiating an enhanced school area parking compliance with dedicated PTCO staff will provide ongoing coverage of school zones during drop-off and pick-up times. During non-school hours

and days, the PTCOs will be able to assist with other priorities such as street sweeping, street maintenance, and residential permit parking zones.

In addition to enforcing parking regulations around schools, PTCOs will be available to meet with Crossing Guards to determine areas of concern where pedestrian safety may require attention and enforcement. The PTCOs will also be available to assist schools with developing strategies that address parking needs and traffic flow to make the drop-off and pick-up of students safer. They will also carry educational material on safe driving, cycling and walking with them, and distribute to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians as necessary.

COORDINATION

This proposal has been coordinated with the City Manager's Budget Office.

/s/
James R. Helmer
Director of Transportation